



549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
517-482-3225
www.bethlutheran.org



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Worship Services – 8:15 & 10:30
November 24, 2019

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

On this last Sunday of the church year, Christ the King Sunday, I thank you, Lord, for enabling me to finish another year of grace. I bring the wonderful news of your grace in the ministry of your Son to a fitting climax as I join with others who are here to praise him...the King of Kings. In this hour of worship, help me to praise him with a heart of joy and to realize again his great act of love for me upon the cross. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

WELCOME

We count it a privilege to receive guests into our worship service. The ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church exists to bring glory to God and to serve you. We hope that you sense that Jesus is at the heart of all we do.

If you are a guest, you are encouraged to use a "WELCOME" card in the pew rack and hand it to the pastor as you leave. You are also invited to sign the Guest Book in the main lobby. If you would like more information about our ministries, please talk to Pastor Matt or Pastor John or call the church office at 482-3225.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bethlehem Lutheran is a praying church; this is one of our Marks of Discipleship. There are two opportunities for your petitions to be shared with our prayerful community. Prayer cards are in the pew rack and are color coded.

- **The White Card:** provided for petitions of concern or thanksgiving to be included in the prayers during the worship service. Include an address if you'd like the person, named on the card, notified of the prayer offered on their behalf. Hand the card to an usher during the Hymn of the Day. **If you attend the 8:15 service, please indicate if you would like the prayer repeated at both services.**
- **The Blue Card:** provided if you would like your concern prayed for every day this week. Please fill out this card and place it in the basket in our prayer corner, located in the back of the church.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the Ferguson & Snider families in memory of Otto & Bertha Venzke and by Vicki Leighton in gratitude to and in gratitude for this congregation of believers.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES Available for those who have difficulty hearing; these are wireless receivers with a small earphone. Contact one of the people at the sound system area if you are interested.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Small chairs and tables are located at the front of the church to keep little ones occupied (and present) during worship. Adult sized chairs are provided for parental supervision. Activity bags, filled with coloring/activity books, crayons and sewing cards can be found on the front pew and in the Narthex at the back of the church. If you need to leave with your child, please use the exit door to the left of the keyboard. The unstaffed nursery, located at the northeast corner of the lower level, is available as a crying room. Diaper changing stations are located in each of the main level restrooms and in the nursery.

TAKING FAITH HOME After worship, pick up this week's copy from the ushers or the usher table in the social hall.

PORTALS OF PRAYER October - December booklets are available on the Welcome Table in the lobby.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN OUR WORSHIP

PASTORS – Rev. Matthew A. Smith, Rev. John W. Burow

ORGANIST – James Schippers

CHOIR DIRECTOR – Sue Nelson

HANDBELL DIRECTOR – Amanda Schneider

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR – Laurey Wyble

DRUMS – Kim Walker

ALTAR GUILD – Joe & Cheryl Shreffler, Rebecca Jordan
Michelle Smith

ASSISTING MINISTER – Nancy Holderread

CHILDREN'S SERMON – Dave Holderread

ACOLYTES – Amaya Fernandez

LAY READERS – Ron Miller, Jim Whitman

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS – Don Telles, Susan Mahoney

Dorothy Martin / Jim Whitman, Mel White, Otto Kern

GREETERS – Ron & Diane Miller, Ron & Marilyn Clark

USHERS – Bob Christiansen, Joe Shreffler, David Snider, Don Olson

Pat North, Judy Pardee, Tom Armstrong, Jim Koessel

SOUND SYSTEM – Dave Holderread, Jon Holderread, Kevin Peckham

Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

Janenne Grinnell in Ingham Co. Medical Care Facility
Donna Clarizio & Shelby Waters in The Willows at Okemos
Nancy Miesner in Mary Free Bed - Sparrow Hospital

Those at home: *Mary Ann Allen, Cloyd Barnes, Virginia Bauman, Mary Brenke, Pam Butts, Crystal Collins, Deanna Darling, Ernie Hassell, Rhoda Hunter, Ray Kenger, Marilyn Kostrzewski, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan, Stephanie Moneypenny, Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Chris Ransom, Bob Robbins, Carol Roush, Paul Schmidt, Audrey Skidmore, Ken Teter, Cheryl VanPatten, Ron Wescott*

If you know of a member you would like us to include on this list or remove from this list, please call the church office.

SEMINARY STUDENT Jason Mills, from BELC, is studying at Gettysburg Theological Seminary. Please keep him in your prayers.

MISSION PARTNERS Pray for the people and ministry at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and the Baker Neighborhood Partners.

THOSE WHO SERVE Please pray for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force (Member of the Kern family)

Jim Church – U.S. Navy (Ron & Diane Miller's nephew)

Darian Doan – U.S. Army (Marv & Laura Halbakken's nephew)

Ty Doan – U.S. Army (Marv & Laura Halbakken's nephew)

Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines (Robin & Jeff Kosloski's great nephew)

Joshua Kosloski – U.S. Army (Laura Halbakken's cousin)

Rusty Landry – U.S. Air Nat'l Guard (Don & Audrey Olson's grandson)

Christopher Morgan – U.S. Marines (friend of Ben & Deanna Darling)

Ben Painter – U.S. Air Force (Laura Halbakken's cousin)

Ryan Schiffner – U.S. Air Force (Rick & Jean Peckham's nephew)

Jake Sonnenberg – U.S. Army (Ed & Ellie Sonnenberg's grandson)

Eric Wheeler – U.S. Army (Laurey Wyble's cousin)

If you know of others in the service that you would like to have put on our prayer list, please call the church office.

PARISH NOTES

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Jean Collins, who died November 18, 2019. May God comfort those who mourn with the promise of eternal life for all those who trust and believe in Jesus Christ.

A Service of Praise and Thanksgiving

Join with God's people to offer Him your worship and praise;
to thank God for His love and blessings!

Thanksgiving Eve Service - November 27 at 7:00 p.m.

PIE FEST FOLLOWING THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE.

Come to the Pie Fest! Let us know if you're bringing a pie on Facebook, sign-up sheet in the social hall or by text/call to Rebecca Jordan 517-303-6701. All Pies are welcome! :)

POINSETTIA SALE The Altar Guild will begin taking orders for red Christmas poinsettias next Sunday, December 1 between services and after the 10:30 service. Orders will also be taken on December 8. The cost per 6 inch plant is \$8.00 and payment must accompany the order. Please make checks payable to Kris Burow.

2020 FLOWER CHART The 2020 Flower chart will be available for you to sign up beginning December 1. Cost per arrangement is \$25.00, checks payable to Kris Burow. Payment does not have to accompany the order.

VISIONS OF CHRISTMAS All are invited to attend the Women's event on December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. The BELCW General Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. We will be celebrating the holiday with beautifully decorated tables and a Christmas performance by a husband and wife group. **Reservations are requested** to allow us to have enough beautifully decorated tables. Today is the last day to RSVP. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Look for the Christmas display!

"DECK THE HALLS!" The annual Church Christmas Decorating Party has been moved from December 6th to **Friday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited to help decorate the church for the season of Christmas. Bring along your favorite Christmas treat to share after the work is done. Afterwards, we will go out to eat at Leo's Outpost.

ADULT FORUM – THE LETTER OF JAMES We will close the year with a discussion of James. Join us as we explore themes of faith and works; possessions and status; friendship with the world versus friendship with God and taming the tongue.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY Did you miss Commitment Sunday? It's not too late to submit your financial commitment card for inclusion in the 2020 budgeting process. Please find a blue card on the Welcome Table in the lobby or ask an usher. Once filled out, you may place it in the offering plate or slip under Laurey's door.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE All our children are important to this production. Children with spoken lines need to be at each of our rehearsals. Rehearsal schedule is as follows:
Saturday, December 7, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (**note new time!**)
Sunday, December 8, rehearsal during 1st service. It is very important to arrive on time. The evening of the program is Sunday, December 8. Please arrive by 4:30 p.m. as the program will begin at 5:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED We need Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringers for the 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. time slot. Even if you can only do half an hour, it would help. Saturday, November 30th at the Holt Kroger on the corner of Willoughby & Cedar Street. Sign-up in the gym or call Judy Pardee at (517) 281-9485. Thank you.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP Thanksgiving Eve, November 27

7:00:

Greeters – Michelle Smith, Chloe Smith, Madelyn Smith

Ushers – Otto Kern, Phil Hassler, Joe Skidmore, Michael Kern

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP December 1

Assisting Minister – Phil Frame

8:15: Acolyte – need someone

Lay Reader – Mary Jakubiak

Communion Assistants – Ralph & Margaret Sergent, Joe Shreffler

Greeters – Ron & Diane Miller

Ushers – John Ransom, Susan Mahoney, Brian Pickford

10:30: Acolyte – Kyra Pohl

Lay Reader – Mel White

Communion Assistants – Carol Kinney, Keitha Snider, Mel White

Greeters – Dana Stevens, Mary Bartel, Marilyn Huyser

Sherry Bass-Pohl

Ushers – Dee Bernardi, Art & Joanna Alvera, Ben Darling

Thought for the Week

The only really absolute mysteries in Christianity are the self-communication of God in the depths of existence – which we call grace, and in history – which we call Christ.

~ Fr. Karl Rahner, Jesuit priest and theologian, 1904-1984

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance: *Last Sunday* - 154; 8:15 - 49, 10:30 - 105

Church School Attendance: 37; adults 20, children 17

Church School Offerings: \$9.00

See monthly financial updates in The Bethlehem Star Newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP *God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved son. ~ Colossians 1:13* It is in faithful serving and generous giving that we both give evidence of our new life in Christ and anticipate the coming reign of God. It is in living God's mission that we honor Christ the King.

PRAYER PARTNERS Each Sunday we pray for another congregation of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod to offer our support and to emphasize the ministry that we share. Please sign the letter in the social hall that will be mailed to the congregation for which we prayed.

SIMPLY GIVING Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTs), through Vanco, are a great way to support the ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. This program is a convenient, safe and simple way to make automatic contributions to the church. If you would like to participate in this program, please see Emily Viele or Laurey Wyble.

NEXT SUNDAY IS FOOD BANK SUNDAY Canned goods and other non-perishable items and gifts of money can be brought to the altar during the "Offering of Gifts." This special offering will be used to feed hungry people in our community through the Food Bank pantry in our church. Items needed are jello, rice dinners, hamburger helper, egg noodles, cake mixes/frosting. Personal items such as bath soap, deodorant, toothpaste, hair shampoo, etc.

COMING IN JANUARY! There have been several requests for refreshments year round after worship. Starting in mid-December there will be sign-up sheets available in the social hall for anyone who wishes to share goodies, or celebrate a special occasion with the congregation. Looking forward to great fellowship with our Bethlehem family!

THIS WEEK AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, Nov. 24	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
<i>Christ The King</i>	8:30	Junior Choir
	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion
MONDAY	5:30	Board of Worship Life
	6:00	Board of Congregational Care
	6:30	BELCW Board Meeting
TUESDAY	8:00	F.G.C.
	10:30	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY	8:00	F.G.C.
	7:00	Thanksgiving Eve Service
		Pie Fest to follow service
THURSDAY		HAPPY THANKSGIVING
		(church office closed)
FRIDAY	7:00	N.A. Meeting
SUNDAY, Dec. 1	8:15	Worship – Holy Communion
<i>Food Bank Sunday</i>	8:30	Junior Choir
	9:15	Sunday School
	9:30	Adult Forum
	10:30	Worship – Holy Communion

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus expects me to...

PRAY fervently

WORSHIP faithfully

ENCOURAGE one another

READ the Scriptures daily

GIVE freely of the gifts I have received from God

INVITE others to know Him

SERVE all people

*...and where I fall short of his expectations,
Jesus always offers me his love and forgiveness!*

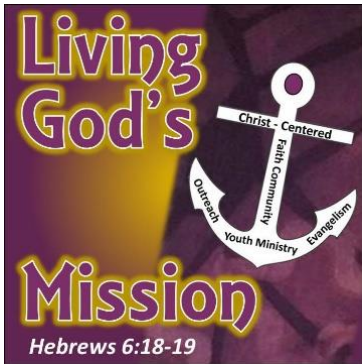
Power Gifts

Artwork ©Laura R. Norton, www.lettersaloft.com.

Assuredly I tell you,
today you will be with me
in Paradise.

Luke 23:34, 43

Living God's Mission



Our theme for the 2019-20 program year is "Living God's Mission." We will be exploring each of the five areas in our Mission Plan, focusing on the stated objectives in each area. We will also emphasize how our Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles tie in, as well as the faith practices that are our Marks of Discipleship. And we will even fit in some of the

Building Blocks for A Lifetime of Stewardship along the way!
This week our area of emphasis in our Mission Plan is:

Being Christ-Centered

Goal: Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church will be a Christ-centered, joyful community of believers who embrace the seven Marks of Discipleship. We will do this by:

- Following biblical teachings
- Connecting Christ's story to our stories
- Continued learning and growth of spiritual life
- Striving to live as God would have us live
- Giving life to the Marks of Discipleship
- Serving selflessly, with humility and gratitude

SHARING THE JOY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

These are two opportunities to share our gifts with others.

Family Growth Center Holiday Gift Workshop

Gifts given to this project will help low-income parents who attend the programs of FGC to select gifts for each of their children. Often these parents would not be able to purchase gifts to give their children. This is an important chance to build their self-esteem and make the holiday season joyful. There is a Christmas tree in the social hall with gift tags on it. Please take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift, return the unwrapped gift and tag to the church, place it in the container in the social hall.



The deadline is Sunday, December 15.

Action for Samaritas

Eight name tags have been hung on the Christmas tree in the gym for the foster children in the refugee programs of Action for Samaritas. Each tag has three wish gifts. Please take a tag and adopt a child for Christmas. Two or more people may adopt a child together. The gifts should be unwrapped with the name tag displayed on the packages. Gift certificates should be put in a small box with the name tag attached. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Pardee at (517) 281-9485



The deadline is Sunday, December 15.